Alabama Reporter.

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ALABAMA REPORTER.

THURSDAY MORNING, January 26

☞ MR. THOS. S. SMITH of Sylacauga, is my authorized agent during my absence from the county.
Feb. 18th, 1862. L. S. WHITE

STEAMER EXPLODED.

The steamer Dick Keys, from Mobile to Pickensville, exploded her boiler, near the lower Salt Works, on the Bigbee river the 18th inst., killing 15 persons and wounding several. Capt. H. C. Johnson, commander of the boat, was slightly injured.

MANY FRIENDS

Will accept my grateful acknowledgements for the favor they have done me, by their proposition to become a candidate for the office of Sheriff of Talladega county.

As my health has become too feeble to permit me to endure the hardships of military life, I have decided to accept the nomination and if elected will discharge the duties of the office to the best of my abilities. JAMES T. DYE.

From the Chronicle & Sentinel.

The Great Flood at Augusta.

THE FRESHET.—The streets are now almost entirely clear of water, but they present a desolate appearance in many portions of the town. The destruction was most severe in the western and southern portions. In the vicinity of the Waynesboro' depot, a great deal of damage has been done. Some two or three hundred yards of the railroad track was torn up, and the platforms about the passenger depot have been scattered about at a fearful rate. The water rose into both the freight and passenger depots. Nearly all the fences around a great many lots have been swept away. The marks of the water are left on the sides of the houses in many localities five feet above the ground.

The subsiding of the water was a great relief to a large portion of the community, as a number of citizens were entirely cut off from their homes and families, and great fears were entertained that loss of life might occur. With one exception, we have been unable to learn of any loss in this respect. The bodies of two men, were found on Thursday, drowned near the Georgia railroad depot, but it could not be definitely ascertained how the calamity occurred. One of the bodies was recognized as that of a slicer named Scanlan.

A narrow escape was made by three women who were discovered floating down the southern section of the city in a one story frame building. Their cries for help attracted a number of citizens who were out in their batteaux, rendering help to the need, who, by great exertion, rescued them.

The gas works are damaged to such an extent it is feared we will have to depend on candles and lamps for the house, and the light of the lunar orb to illumine our street transactions for some time to come.

The water works are, it is feared, seriously damaged, and it is thought that citizens may suffer inconveniences for for want of water. Many pumps are rendered useless.

The dwelling of Mr. C. A. Platt, corner of Campbell and Green streets, was damaged to the amount of $20,000, his fences and outhouses are all gone, and the furniture in the lower part of the dwelling almost destroyed.

A large excavation was made in the side wall corner of Monument and Broad streets, some ten feet deep.

Two frame houses on Walker street, near Campbell, were demolished and with their contents carried off by the water.

The sidewalks, streets and drains of the city, are in hundreds of instances, in a deplorable plight, entire sidewalks being washed away, and holes deep enough to bury a man.

All the neighborhood of the Georgia railroad, Waynesboro railroad and the cemetery, suffered more or less.

No doubt two millions of dollars would not put things as they were before.

The passenger trains of the Carolina and Georgia railroads sent out as usual on Friday morning.

A number of horses, mules, cows, hogs sheep, goats, and all kinds of poultry were lost by parties located in the deluged places.

We understand that the water in Broad street, at the Planters Hotel, was of a depth to swim a horse.

NEGROES FOR SALE.

THE negroes belonging to the corporation of the town of Talladega, *JIM C* and *DAN*, will be sold, at the Court House, in the Town of Talladega, on the first Monday in February next.

By order.
G. P. STEDMAN, Mayor.
H. H. HAMIL, Sec'y.

From our own Correspondent.

RICHMOND, Jan'y 2d, 1865.

Dear Reporter:

Sherman's grand raid across the State of Georgia having temporarily interrupted communication with this city and given the negligent mail agents a good excuse for a failure to discharge their duties, I avail myself of an opportunity to send you a hasty line by a friend who goes through to your city. The disasters which resulted from Gen. Hood's mysterious campaign into Tennessee cast quite a gloom over the Capitol, which even the christmas holidays and attendant festivities have failed to dispel. Congress has been in session every day with the exception of Monday and Tuesday of last week. The North Carolina and many of the Virginia members visited their homes on short leaves of absence reducing the members to some extent but really rendering the body more efficient for the dispatch of business. We mean no reflection upon the Honorable gentlemen who are absent from their seats, or simply to advance the idea that a small body is more efficient for the dispatch of business than a larger one.

Few acts of general interest or special importance have yet been passed. The act authorizing the removal of the rivers beyond the limits of the State for the period of sixty days. The act authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to exchange Coupon six per cent. Bonds for the 1.30 interest notes (Bonds payable 1st Jan'y '65 and interest payable semi-annually).

Act to punish frauds, embezzlement and larceny of property of Confederate States.

Act to define and punish conspiracy against the Confederate States.

Act to regulate compensation of members and officers of the two Houses of Congress, (increases compensation 50 per cent.)

Act to continue in force and extend the time for taking testimony with regard to claims for illegal impressments (Extends the time to 1st Jan'y 1866).

Act to extend the time within which holders of treasury notes of the old issue may exchange the same for notes of the new. (Time extended to 1st July).

Are all that have yet become laws.

There is pending before the House a very bloody and searching bill touching Quartermasters and Commissioners. The bill will probably pass, all admit the importance of looking into the condition of these well fed and much abused individuals, the only objection raised to the present bill is that it may run the honest men out and leave the thieves to fatten upon the liberal supply of spoils which they manage to gather.

The House is to day at work upon a bill to increase the efficiency and improve the discipline of our cavalry. Some resolutions are being made that reflect severely upon officers and men belonging to that branch of the service.

The bill to reorganize the army has been reported by the Military Committee but has not yet come up for discussion.

This bill is creating some little sensation among the army officers likely to be affected by it. The plan proposed is to authorize the General in command of an army whenever in his opinion Regiments or companies are so reduced as in his opinion to require it, to consolidate them, (that is troops from the same State). It provides for the appointment of a board of three general officers to pass upon the officers and appoint the officers for the new regiments and companies. The supernumerary officers to be reduced to ranks, but allowed the privilege of selecting the branch of service to which they may go and also to organize themselves into companies if they choose.

It is conceded by all that we have too many officers, the only difficulty is how to dispose of them. The great objection to the examining board is that it opens the door to favoritism and gives the man in the rear who has had leisure to study "Hardee" an opportunity to go in over the head of the brave man at the front who has learned his tactics by actual experience in the field and in the trenches. The men know the meritorious officers and the fighting officers. They should have the privilege of electing from the list of officers the men who are to lead them.

The question of arming the slaves which we had hoped was entirely dead, seems to be gaining favor. It is hardly probable however that Congress will at its present session pass any bill to put arms in the hands of slaves.

Mr. Trenholm's currency bill passed the House several days since and is now pending before the Senate. Great hopes are entertained by the friends of this bill as to the success of the measure. Our own opinion is that our currency question is in the hands of our Generals and armies, and nothing but success to our arms can to any extent improve the currency.

Several tax bills have been suggested but none have yet come up for action.

Measures for increasing and strengthening the army. For regulating impressments and for reorganizing the Conscription Bureau are yet to come up. We are glad to see a disposition to exhaust all able-bodied men from the last named department.

Ex-Governor Foote retired from his seat in Congress nearly two weeks since, refusing, as he alleged, to sit with chains upon him. He stated that the question would soon be determined as to whether he ever resumed it. If certain measures which he had reason to apprehend might be adopted, received the sanction of Congress, he would seek an asylum in other lands, &c, &c. His allusions were supposed to have reference to matters pending in secret session. His legislative experience and unquestioned ability rendered him in many respects a very valuable member. His fondness for debate caused him at times to occupy more of the attention and time of the House than many thought him entitled to. He speaks well, however, and was usually listened to with interest by the galleries whether the House gave him a hearing or not.

Baldwin, of Virginia, is the great leader of conservatives in the House, though he is backed by a number of first rate ability such as Marshall, of Ky., Boyce, of S. C., Smith, of N. C. and a number of others who are usually conservative.

Russel, of Va., is the strongest man on the side of the extremists. Barksdale of Miss., usually occupies a prominent position in all matters which immediately concerns the Administration.

Mr. Davis is less popular with the present Congress than at its last session, and in our opinion has much less influence. He holds his last Levee this evening. The Congress generally will attend it.

It would hardly be pardonable to add excuse haste, at the conclusion of this rather prolix communication. The reader will find no difficulty in determining that it has been very hastily written.—The weather is extremely cold, many of our troops are badly clad, most of the Alabama boys without socks. Cannot something be done for them? They can stand half rations if they are only comfortably clad. They are to day enjoying an elegant New Years' dinner, contributed at great expense by the citizens of Richmond and the neighboring country. The members of Congress and the Virginia Legislature made liberal contributions. It has been a bright sunny day and we hope they have enjoyed it.

Wishing you and your numerous readers a happy New Year, I remain, yours,
C.

For the Ala. Reporter.

Conscription of the Negroes.

Mr. Editor: —

I am aware that this is a delicate subject to approach at this time on account of the opposition in various portions of society, but feeling as I do that the crisis of the present war is approaching, I propose in a few hastily written paragraphs, to call the attention of your readers to its necessity and importance, and then to answer the various objections that are urged against it.

Perhaps we are met at the threshhold of our argument by some fireside patriot, or street General, some speculator in bread stuffs, or manufacturer of cotton yarns, or some exempt owning a blacksmith shop, or a few negro mechanics, with the question, where is the necessity for this monstrous proposition that will at once upturn society, and destroy all prosperity? We reply, in the first place, that the necessity exists in our need of soldiers. There is nothing plainer, than the fact, that the forces we have in the field are not sufficient to check the advance of the enemy. The victorious march of Sherman through Georgia, and the failure of General Hood's campaign in Tennessee, and the disastrous consequences, of both are known to all, no one will say that Beauregard and Hardee have failed through incapacity. The former the best engineer on the continent, and the latter the best tactician, the true secret of their inability to check Sherman is that they did not have the forces to do it. Hood's courage amounts to chivalry, he is one of "the bravest of the brave," why then could he not remain in Tennessee? Because the superior forces of Thomas flanked him out of his position and compelled him to retire with great loss.

The exemptions from military service are comparatively few, how it is a fact that no nation ever conscripted it's Priesthood, and teachers of public schools, into military service, (and here permit me to remark that I am fully persuaded that both of these useful classes are as largely represented in the army as any other classes of professional men,) notwithstanding they have all the while been exempt, yet the statistics show that out of one thousand teachers in the State of Alabama, not two hundred have been exempt by law, and out of two thousand ministers of religion, not over five hundred have claimed exemption, under the act of Congress, these facts, and others that might mentioned show that our country is almost drained of its available, white male population. It is very evident that our army must be strengthened, or it will be totally inadequate, to the mighty task before it, unless this is done the future is indeed a gloomy prospect, no star of hope, that promises a speedy termination of the war glitters in the sky, I do not underrate the courage and endurance of our brave and heroic soldiers. They have done, and will continue to do, all that humanity can do, their fame is world-wide, they have reared for themselves a monument more enduring than marble or brass. Our Generals are skillful and heroic, the glorious fields they have won, the many scars they bear, their lofty rating ing will ring out clear and shrill, in the last notes of fame a loud trump, and the immortal names of Sidney Johnson, Stonewall Jackson, Polk, Cleburne, and Stewart, McCullock, Gist, Barton, and Beeland a host of others that have fallen covered with glory, will live when the names of proud kings have gone to the deepest recesses of oblivion.

But sir, is it not plain that even self devotion, and heroism cannot accomplish every thing; we are comparatively few in number, some of our boasting ones forget that the city of New York, and its environs has twice the population of the State of Mississippi and almost twice that of Alabama, and it matters not how brave and skillful we are, if we are to be continually attacked and harrassed by superior numbers we must finally give way unless we can fill our depleted ranks. The above facts are sustained by the history of the past. Invading armies always have the advantage. They are generally superior in numbers and military equipments, and always subsist on the country invaded. They eat up the substance, break the spirits of its inhabitants and destroy its resources. As long as Sparta could keep the enemy out of her boundaries she was invincible, her women gave their hair to make bow strings, and no sacrifice was too great for them to make while her armies were the invaders, but when she became the invaded, her spirits were broken, her substance wasted, and she was soon prostrate at the feet of her conquerors. Hannibal held the heart of Italy fifteen years, and notwithstanding the vast resources of the Roman Empire he wasted her substance, destroyed her resources, and by his continual depredations effectually humbled her pride, 'tis true he did not subjugate her, but his success was the signal for the attack of surrounding nations, and the continual pouring forth of the barbarous hordes of the north finally leveled her walls and trampled her imperial banner in the dust, not by generalship or military science but by that brute force that numbers always give, men are not brass or iron. They cannot accomplish impossibilities, their spirits may be unconquerable, but nations' laws must be obeyed by all. There is a point, even in military affairs where scientific skill can go no farther, that point is reached when we fail to supply the depleted ranks of our army. The federal flag now waves in haughty triumph over the Capitols of Missouri, Kentucky, Maryland, Tennessee, Louisiana and Arkansas, while every State has been invaded, and some portion of its territory occupied by the enemy. Our enemies are not yet satisfied with blood and plunder, and declare an indefinate prolongation of the war. The re-election of Mr. Lincoln to the Presidency by an immense majority, after his total disregard of the constitution his despotic acts, and the bloody platform upon which he stood show the spirit of the Northern people to be unbroken, and their appetites keen for conquest, nothing but blood and conquest will satisfy their hellish desires. They will carry on this war until they possess every foot of our soil, and every dollar of our money. Now, Mr. Editor, where is it recorded that a yankee Yankee or a German ever gave up one inch of soil, or one dollar of money that he was not forced to relinquish? The old Puritans from whom the Yankees sprung were perhaps the most unbending, avaricious, ungodly class of men that ever lived, nothing but unlimited wealth and power would ever satisfy them. The old hackneyed story, that they fled from religious persecution, and sought an asylum, in the wilds of America to enjoy religious freedom is all false. They fled from Europe because an outraged country could no longer bear their atrocities, and because they could not practice their abominable creeds, and force their nasal twang piety upon everybody else. And as soon as they found themselves freed from the restraints of law they began to burn witches, hang heretics, whip disbelievers, and fine women for kissing their babies on Sundays and all such ridiculous barbarisms that outrage humanity, and show the spirit of hell instead of the spirit of piety. That same spirit of bigotry prevails in their descendants. The dark ages of superstition cannot present a more intolerant race than the Yankees. Their avaricionsness is proverbial throughout the civilized world. An Englishman has said "hang a bag of money in hell and a Yankee will go there after it," and, Henry Ward Beecher has said: That "New England is the pick pocket of the world." They cheat and defraud, yea even fight and pillage for money, and I mark my words, Mr. Editor, as long as they can plunder our cities and private houses, and carry off our plate, and jewelry and money, they will carry on this war at every expense of money, honor, and humanity. They are leaving no stones unturned, and are not scrupulous about any thing that will promote their designs. Subjugation, Emancipation, and confiscation, are their fundamental principles. Now the question is how are we to meet them? I answer by making use of every means that a kind God has given us,

But more anon,
VERITAS.

CONFEDERATE STATES CONGRESS.

SENATE.

MONDAY, December 26, 1864.

The Senate met at 12 o'clock, M. House currency bill was reported to the Finance Committee and ordered to be printed.

The Chair laid before the Senate the following letter, which was read and ordered to be printed:

"TREASURY DEPARTMENT, }
"Richmond, Dec. 23, 1864. }

"*Hon. A.H. Stephens, President of the C. S. Senate:*

"SIR: I have the honor of bringing to the attention of Congress that the receipt of four per cent. bonds and certificates, in payment of taxes, as provided by law, is in effect the redemption of those public obligations; but that no authority exists by which they may be changed accordingly. They appear to the credit of the taxes received and remain on deposit in the Treasury as part of the last fund.

"I respectfully recommend the passage of an act, providing that all four per cent. bonds and certificates received under the act of 17th February, 1864, in payment of taxes, shall be considered as redeemed, and be cancelled and charged against any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated.

"Very respectfully,
"G. A. TRENHOLM,
"Sec'y of the Treasury."

On motion, the Senate resolved into secret session, and shortly after the doors being re-opened, on motion by Mr. Barnwell, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

SATURDAY, Dec. 24, 1864.

The House met at 12 o'clock.—Prayer by the Rev. Dr. Doggett.

PASSAGE OF THE CURRENCY BILL.

The currency bill being taken up, the House proceeded to pass upon the amendment proposed by the Committee of the Whole to the bill. The amendment in the third section reducing the value of cotton to twenty-five cents, corn to one dollar and wheat to two dollars, were disagreed to. The other amendments were agreed to, and the bill was engrossed and ordered to be read a third time.

Mr. Kenner, of Louisiana, called the question whereupon the bill, as amended, was passed by a decided vote.

The following is a copy of the bill:

"A bill to be entitled 'an act to provide more effectually for the reduction and redemption of the currency.'

"WHEREAS, the recovery of the currency from its depreciation, and the reassurance of the public of its ultimate payment in full, would be an inestimable benefit to both Government and citizens; and as a means for accomplishing this end it is expedient to exempt the same from taxation, and to pledge the public faith, not only against any addition to the amount of the currency, now authorized by law, but also to the reduction of it, by cancelling annually a material part thereof, and the dedication of an ample fund for redeeming the residue to be applied to that purpose from and after the close of the existing war; therefore,

"SECTION 1. The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, Hereafter, and until the full redemption of the Confederate States Treasury notes now outstanding, and of such as are authorized by existing laws to be issued, the said notes, except those issued prior to the seventeenth day of February, 1864, shall be free from all taxation whatever.

"SEC. 2. Pending the war one fifth of the Treasury notes annually received into the Treasury in payment of taxes, shall be thereupon cancelled, until the amount outstanding shall have been reduced to one hundred and fifty millions of dollars.

"SEC 3. Upon a declaration of peace between the Confederate States and the United States of America, the tithe received by the Government of the annual crops of produce of cotton, (other than Sea Island cotton) wheat and corn, in the ratio it four-ninths of cotton, four-ninths of corn and one-ninth of wheat, shall be applied to the redemption of the Treasury notes in circulation, until the whole shall have been redeemed; the tithe of cotton being valued at fifty cents a pound, of corn at two dollars a bushel, and of wheat at four dollars a bushel and being deliverable by the Government at one or more shipping ports in each of he Confederate States, to be selected by the Secretary of the Treasury; Provided however, That the tithes aforesaid, or any part thereof, may, by consent of the parties entitled to receive the same, be delivered elsewhere than at a shipping port; Provided further, That that the cotton to be delivered under the authority of this act shall be equal to ordinary-sad and held as 'middling cotton' in the ports where such cotton may be delivered.

"Section 4. That all acts and parts of acts now in force providing for the assessment and collection of the tax in kind of cotton, corn and wheat, be and the same are hereby re-enacted, and shall continue in force until all Treasury notes issued, or authorized to be issued by an act to reduce the currency, and to authorize a new issue of notes and bonds, approved February 17, 1864, shall have been redeemed in full, and the persons paying taxes in kind under this act, from and after a ratification of a treaty of peace, shall receive compensation, by credit or otherwise for the then market value of any cotton, corn and wheat, delivered after the termination of the war, so as to equalize their taxes with other tax payers, the market value to be ascertained at the time of its delivery in the mode prescribed by law.

"Section 5. The holders of Treasury notes desiring to receive the tithes afore said, in payment thereof, shall convert the same into Treasury certificates, bearing an interest of six per cent. per annum, which shall be issued by the Secretary of the Treasury in exchange for said notes, and shall express on their face the object for which they are intended, the holders of which said certificates shall be entitled to receive payment therefor in the tithes aforesaid, at the rate of one fifth of the amount annually; Provided, however, That more than one fifth of the amount of tithe due for any such certificates, or the whole of such amount, may be paid in any year, at the election of the Secretary of the Treasury; Provided, That Treasury notes redeemed in lieu of the certificates authorized by this act shall not be reissued; Provided further, That said certificates shall be divided into two classes, to be designated respectively as No. 1 and 2. Certificates issued during the first six months of the year 1865 shall be of the first class, and shall be redeemable in cotton at forty cents a pound, corn at one dollar and fifty cents per bushel and wheat at three dollars per bushel; Provided, however, That holders of Treasury notes living in the Trans-Mississippi department shall be allowed two months additional to convert their Treasury notes into certificates of the first class. Certificates issued subsequent to the six and eight months of said year, shall be of the second class, and shall be redeemable in cotton at fifty cents per pound, corn at two dollars per bushel, and wheat at four dollars per bushel.

"Sec. 6. All planters or farmers liable to the tax in kind shall be permitted to satisfy the same by payment of such certificates as aforesaid.

"Sec. 7. Certificates issued under the authority of this act, shall be in the following proportions, to wit: four tenths in a separate certificate, payable in cotton, four tenths payable in corn, and one-ninth payable in wheat; but no sum less than forty five dollars, or its multiple, shall be converted into Treasury certificates when the sum is under nine hundred dollars.

"But the amount to be made payable on the face of such certificate, when the sum converted into Treasury certificates is more than nine hundred dollars, shall be such as the Secretary of the Treasury shall judge to be most suitable and convenient for the purposes of the act, which said certificate shall be a signable in writing in such form and with such authentication as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe.

"Sec. 8. The public faith is hereby pledged to the inviolable observance of the provisions herein above contained, as to the collection of the tax on wheat, corn, and cotton in kind, and the application thereof as aforesaid, until the redemption of the currency as above provided shall have been completed.

"Sec. 9. This act shall be in force from the passing thereof."

RICHMOND, Jan. 18.

In the Senate nothing of importance was done.

In the House, yesterday, Marshall moved to recommit the bill to impose a duty on tobacco and an additional duty on Cotton, with instructions to report a bill to take all the cotton and tobacco in the Confederacy on account of the Government and provide for future payment therefor to the owners at the present market value. This proposition was discussed yesterday and to-day without result. The House went into secret session after the expiration of the morning hour.

RICHMOND, Jan. 19.

Mr. Foote arrived this p. m. from Fredericksburg. The Secretary of War directed yesterday, that he be released, but he refused to accept the discharge, insisting that he be brought before Judge Halliburton.

Northern papers of the 18th have been received.

Edward Everett died Saturday last of apoplexy.

The State Convention of Tennessee unanimously passed a resolution abolishing slavery and abrogating the Ordinance of Secession.

Brownlow was nominated for Governor. He has accepted the nomination.

The Steamer Clyde sailed from N York on Saturday, deeply loaded with provisions for the relief of the citizens of Savannah. She was gaily dressed in colors, was greeted with cheers and salutes from all sides.

A Cairo telegram says Thomas and his Staff were at Paducah, Ky., a few days ago.

Gold was 219 at the first Board in New York on Monday.

RICHMOND, Jan. 11.

In the Senate Mr. Watson submitted a preamble and joint resolution, which were agreed to, requesting the President to appoint a day of fasting, humiliation and prayer; and then resolved itself into secret session.

The Senate bill to provide for the payment of interest on the removal and subsistance fund due the Cherokee Indians of North Carolina, was passed. The exemption bill was then taken up, and pending its consideration the House adjourned.

RICHMOND, Jan. 12.

Frank P. Blair arrived in this city yesterday and is staying at private quarters. The evening's Whig says that it is reported that he had an interview last night with the Secretary of War, but there are no developments in regard to the object of his visit.

The Baltimore American of the 10th inst. has been received. It contains nothing of interest. Gen. Scadlan has ordered the arrest of Clement C. Clay, Sr., who will be sent to Nashville and held as a hostage for Judge Humphreys, who was captured at Huntsville by Gen. Roddy.

The State of Alabama,
Talladega County.

Probate Court Special Term,
Jan. 24, 1865.

Estate of Mary S. A. Sarah A. Averett, dec'd.

THIS day came Wm. A. Averett Administrator of the Estate of and Testament of Mrs. Mary Chip Mary S. and Sarah A. Averett, deceased, and filed accounts current between himself and said deceased's estate together with the vouchers referred on to sustain the credit side of his account, also the names, ages and residences of the heirs at law of said estate, for a final settlement of his administration thereon.

Also at the same time filed an account current and vouchers between himself as guardian of Ella J. Averett, minor, and said minors Estate, for an annual settlement of his guardianship thereof.

It is the reform ordered by the court that Friday, the 24th of February next, be a day set apart for such settlement before this court, and that notice thereof be given by publication in the Alabama Reporter, a newspaper published in the town and County of Talladega once a week for three weeks successively.

WM. H. THORNTON,
Judge of Probate.